

Message Text

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66/72

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DRAFTED BY: ARA:CAR:JRBURKE:JR

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 041770

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FIRST LINE, PARA 3D)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR (FLETCHER, DOUGLAS V.) JM, XL

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR FLETCHER'S FAREWELL CALL

1. AMBASSADOR DOUGLAS FLETCHER PAID FAREWELL CALL ON
ASSISTANT SECRETARY WILLIAM ROGERS 11:00 A.M., FEBRUARY
24. FLETCHER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTER-COUNSELOR
ANTHONY HILL.

2. AT OUTSET FLETCHER INDICATED THAT HE HAD NOTHING OF
GREAT SUBSTANCE TO TAKE UP WITH ROGERS. HE REVIEWED HIS
TENURE AS AMBASSADOR AND SINGLED OUT THE FOLLOWING AS THE
MOST IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS OCCURRING DURING HIS PERIOD IN
WASHINGTON: JAMAICA'S MOVE TO REESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH
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CUBA; INCREASING JAMAICAN IDENTIFICATION WITH THE THIRD

WORLD; END OF THE SUGAR QUOTA ACT; JAMAICA'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BAUXITE COMPANIES; THE "NEW DIALOGUE"; AND JAMAICA'S DEEPER INVOLVEMENT IN THE OAS.

3. AMB. FLETCHER THEN WENT ON TO RAISE THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

(A) SUGAR--FLETCHER SAID THAT HIS EMBASSY HAD BEEN HEARING RUMORS THAT THE SUGAR QUOTA ACT MAY BE REVIVED IN THE CURRENT CONGRESS AND HE WAS NOT SURE JUST

WHAT HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION WOULD BE IN RESPONSE TO SUCH A DEVELOPMENT. HE NOTED THAT JAMAICA WAS CONTINUING TO SHIP TO THE US MARKET BUT HAD ALSO MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO SELL A SMALL AMOUNT OF SUGAR TO IRAN, 10,000 TONS TO CHINA, AND EXPECTED TO SELL TO THE EC AS MUCH AS JAMAICA PREVIOUSLY HAD SOLD TO THE UK UNDER THE COMMONWEALTH SUGAR AGREEMENT.

(B) BAUXITE--FLETCHER SAID THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE GOJ AND THE COMPANIES WERE CONTINUING TO MAKE PROGRESS ON PHASE II. HE CITED THE AGREEMENTS IN PRINCIPLE WITH KAISER AND REVERE, AND NOTED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH REYNOLDS SEEMED TO BE PROGRESSING FAVORABLY. HE PERCEIVES NO PROBLEM IN ACHIEVING SETTLEMENT WITH ALCAN BUT HE DOES FEEL THAT THE ALCOA NEGOTIATION REMAINS A QUESTION MARK.

(C) OAS SECGEN--COMMENTING ON THE FORTHCOMING ELECTION OF A NEW SECRETARY GENERAL, FLETCHER OPINED THAT AMBASSADOR ALEJANDRO ORFILA WOULD "BULLDOZE HIS WAY THROUGH" AND PROBABLY BE ELECTED ON THE SECOND BALLOT. THE OTHER CANDIDATES (SAPENA PASTOR AND GOMEZ BERGES) APPEAR TO FLETCHER TO BE FADING FAST. HE FELT THAT FOR THE POST OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO CONSIDER HAVING THE CARIBBEAN REPRESENTED. HE NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME TALK OF VAL MCCOMIE IN THIS CONNECTION. (MCCOMIE IS FORMER BARBADOS AMBASSADOR TO THE WHITE HOUSE AND OAS AND CURRENTLY BARBADOS AMBASSADOR TO CARACAS). HE NOTED THAT THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN MIGHT

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HAVE AS MANY AS FOUR VOTES (ASSUMING GRENADA'S ADMISSION TO THE OAS) TO GIVE THEIR CANDIDATE. HE THEN ASKED IF THE US HAD AN INTEREST IN THE ASSISTANT SECGEN POSITION AND ROGERS CONFIRMED THAT THE USG DOES STILL HAVE AN INTEREST. REGARDING FUTURE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE GOJ ON OAS MATTERS PENDING THE ARRIVAL OF A NEW AMBASSADOR, FLETCHER SAID THAT AMBASSADOR GERARD IN KINGSTON RATHER THAN THE JAMAICAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WOULD BE THE BETTER CHAN-

NEL. HE NOTED THAT MINISTER-COUNSELOR HILL AS CHARGE WOULD BE ALMOST ENTIRELY INVOLVED IN NON-OAS MATTERS AND THEIR OAS DELEGATION WOULD BE IN JUNIOR HANDS PENDING THE ARRIVAL OF A NEW AMBASSADOR.

(D) COMMENTING GENERALLY ON THE OAS, FLETCHER, MAKING CLEAR THAT HE WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS, EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE ORGANIZATION WOULD BE A MUCH MORE USEFUL BODY IF ITS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUNCTIONS COULD BE SEPARATED FROM THE POLITICAL.

HE FEELS THAT AT PRESENT THE POLITICAL TOO OFTEN INTRUDES ON THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SIDE THUS RENDERING THE OAS A MUCH LESS USEFUL ORGANISM THAN IT COULD BE.

(E) "NEW DIALOGUE"--HILL ASKED ABOUT THE POSTPONED BUENOS AIRES MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS AND JUST WHERE THE "DIALOGUE" NOW STOOD. ROGERS RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS WORKING WITH THE CONGRESS OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF AMENDING ARTICLE V NOT BECAUSE THIS SECTION OF THE TRADE ACT HAD APPARENTLY CAUSED THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE BUENOS AIRES FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING BUT BECAUSE MODIFICATION OF ARTICLE V "MADE SENSE." HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT A BREAKTHROUGH BEFORE THE OASGA. THERE WAS DISCUSSION OF THE PANAMANIAN SUGGESTION OF MAKING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING MORE OF A DIALOGUE THAN THE "SET-SPEECH" FORUM THE GA HAD BEEN IN THE PAST. IT WAS AGREED THAT IF THE OASGA COULD BE TRANSFORMED INTO A USEFUL DIALOGUE SUCH A DEVELOPMENT MIGHT OBIATE THE NECESSITY FOR A RESCHEDULING OF A SEPARATE MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS. THE JAMAICANS NOTED HOWEVER THAT WERE THIS TO HAPPEN NON-OAS MEMBERS SUCH AS THE BAHAMAS AND GUYANA WOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM THE CONFIDENTIAL

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DIALOGUE. HILL ALSO NOTED THAT THE WORK OF THE TWO SUBSIDIARY GROUPS ON TRANS-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY HAD BEEN SUSPENDED BY THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE BA MEETING. ROGERS SAID THAT THE USG WAS NOT OPPOSED TO THE RESUMPTION OF THE DELIBERATION OF THESE TWO BODIES.

(F) SECRETARY'S TRIP TO LA--FLETCHER ASKED WHETHER OR NOT THE SECRETARY'S TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA WAS STILL ON. ROGERS RESPONDED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE INDICATING THAT THE DATES WERE NOT FIRM AND THAT IT COULD BE LATE MARCH OR APRIL.

(G) TRADE REFORM ACT--HILL ASKED ABOUT THE PROPOSED BENTSEN AMENDMENT TO THE TRADE REFORM ACT. ROGERS

RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT THERE HAD BEEN A NEW DEVELOPMENT ON THE HILL. A STAFF MEMBER ATTACHED TO SENATOR LONG HAD RECENTLY VISITED VENEZUELA AND THAT ON THE BASIS OF HIS CONSULTATIONS ANOTHER PARLIAMENTARY DEVICE VICE THE BENTSEN AMENDMENT MIGHT BE FASHIONED TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM OF VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR'S EXCLUSION FROM THE TRADE ACT. HILL NOTED THAT THIS WOULD TAKE CARE OF THOSE TWO COUNTRIES BUT ASKED ABOUT THE OTHER AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL SUCH AS THE TAFT AMENDMENT WHICH IS DIRECTED AT JAMAICA. HE ASKED IF THE DEPARTMENT'S LAWYERS HAD

REVIEWED THE APPLICATION OF THE AMENDMENT. ROGERS RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT A PRELIMINARY REVIEW HAD BEEN UNDERTAKEN AND THAT IT DID NOT APPEAR THE AMENDMENT POSED A PROBLEM AT PRESENT.

4. JUST BEFORE DEPARTING, FLETCHER MENTIONED THAT JAMAICA WAS HAVING A SMALL PROBLEM WITH THE IDB IN ATTEMPTING TO SECURE A WATER LOAN. HE SAID THAT THE IDB HAD BEEN INSISTING ON "HARD" RATES WHICH JAMAICA FELT UNFAIR IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT MEXICO HAD RECENTLY BEEN GRANTED A SIMILAR LOAN ON CONCESSIONAL TERMS. HE INDICATED THAT THEY WERE SORTING OUT THE ISSUE WITH THE IDB AND THAT HIS REFERENCE TO IT DID NOT CONSTITUTE A REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE. ROGERS COMMENTED THAT WE ARE AWARE OF THE PROBLEM AND THAT ESSENTIALLY IT REVOLVES AROUND THE CONFIDENTIAL

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FACT THAT THERE IS JUST SO MUCH SOFT MONEY AVAILABLE AND THAT THE BANK MUST FIRST ACCOMMODATE THE MSA'S BEFORE MAKING SUCH FUNDS AVAILABLE TO COUNTRIES WHICH MIGHT BE BETTER OFF.

5. MEETING CONCLUDED ON A MOST CORDIAL NOTE WITH FLETCHER EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR MANY KINDNESSES HE HAD RECEIVED DURING THE COURSE OF HIS TERM AS AMBASSADOR. KISSINGER

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